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Chloe Grace Moretz gets seriously funny. 21

Rosenberg: Embracing base-brawls. 26

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AIRPOCALYPSE

A record number of travelers this summer are expected to snarl airports already beset by too many passengers and too few screeners inspecting more carry-on bags. 2

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3 THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW

ECUADOR HIT BY TWO EARTHQUAKES

Two earthquakes struck Ecuador's coast on Wednesday, causing minor injuries and light damage in the same region where a magnitude 7.8 tremor killed more than 650 people last month. Wednesday's tremors, measuring 6.7 and 6.8 in magnitude, according to the U.S. Geological Survey, cut electricity in some coastal areas and sent people running into the streets as far away as the highland capital of Quito, witnesses said. President Rafael Correa said the epicenter of the first one overnight was the fishing village of Mompiche on the Pacific coast, about 229 miles from Quito. "There are some light injuries because people ran out, or bumped into things," Correa said on state television, adding there was also some minor damage, mainly to infrastructure already hit by the April disaster. There was no tsunami warning. The second tremor struck just before midday, according to the U.S. Geological survey. REUTERS

PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGNS TARGETED

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U.S. presidential campaigns face threats from hackers bent on espionage and other activity more nefarious than mere political mischief, the office of the U.S. National Intelligence Director James Clapper said on Wednesday, but did not provide details on specific intrusions. "We're aware that campaigns and related organizations and individuals are targeted by actors with a variety of motivations— from philosophical differences to espionage — and capabilities— from defacements to intrusions," Clapper's spokesman Brian Hale said in a statement, deferring to the FBI for details on specific incidents. REUTERS

ZIMMERMAN'S GUN AUCTIONED FOR $139K

GETTY IMAGES

Online bidding for the gun used by George Zimmerman to kill unarmed black teenager Trayvon Martin in Florida in 2012 ended on Wednesday, though it was not clear whether the final offer of $138,900 was legitimate. Zimmerman's offer to sell the Kel-Tec PF9 9mm handgun on UnitedGunGroup.com drew praise from gun rights enthusiasts and scorn from people who criticized him for seeking to profit from fatally shooting the 17-year-old. Zimmerman was acquitted of second-degree murder and manslaughter charges in the shooting, which sparked debates on race relations, gun control and American justice and provided a catalyst for the Black Lives Matter civil rights movement. In a statement on Twitter after the bidding closed, United Gun Group defended its decision to host the auction. The group said it had run simultaneous auctions for the gun, one for pre-qualified buyers and another for the public. REUTERS

Travelers strap in for record-breaking summer at US airports

An estimated 231 million passengers are expected to fly in the United States between June 1 and Aug. 31.

Security line at JFK GETTY IMAGES

Be prepared for a bumpy start if you're planning a vacation this summer and flying out of New York or another busy airport.

An estimated 231 million passengers, an all-time high, are expected to fly in the United States between June 1 and Aug. 31, according to Airlines for America (A4A), the industry trade organization whose members include American Airlines, United, Southwest and JetBlue.

The group foresees 2.5 million passengers per day, a prediction that would further snarl airports dealing with massive lines at security checkpoints, manned, critics say, by too few federal screeners having to inspect too many carry-on bags.

The waits at New York-area airports have gotten so out of hand that U.S. Sen. Charles Schumer has called on the Transportation Security Administration to increase the number of screeners and canine teams to speed up the lines.

"As New York City airport wait times bog down, so waits the nation," Schumer said. "New York City is a national hub, and if we can reduce the wait times here, we can make the entire country move a lot faster."

Neither Boston's nor Philadelphia's airports have seen lines like those in New York or Chicago's O'Hare International Airport, where thousands have missed flights while waiting in security lines. On Tuesday, the TSA promised to bring in additional employees to O'Hare and TSA Administrator Peter Neffenger apologized to passengers left stranded after missing flights.

At Boston's Logan Airport, wait times have been 20 minutes or less, according to Jennifer Mehigan, spokeswoman for Massport, which oversees the airport. TSA staffing has been adequate at Logan, she said, although passengers are still encouraged to arrive two hours prior to departure for domestic flights and three hours for international flights to "avoid unforeseen delays."

42K
THE TSA HAS 42,525 FRONTLINE STAFFERS THIS YEAR

10%
WHICH IS A 10% DECREASE FROM 2013

Passenger volume at Philadelphia International Airport is now approaching pre-2008 recession levels, according to spokeswoman Mary Flannery.

"At Philadelphia International Airport, our lines and our wait times are not nearly as extreme as in some other airports," Flannery said. "We have several ways in which we've been working with the airlines and the TSA to try to mitigate wait times."

Nevertheless, U.S. Sen. Bob Casey, D-Pa, issued a statement Wednesday calling for more funding to the TSA so that it can boost staffing at airport security checkpoints.

"With summer travel season quickly coming upon us, it is vital that steps be taken to reduce long lines at our airport," Casey said. "We must do everything we can to keep air travel safe, reliable, and efficient. Appropriately funding TSA will do just that."

According to Casey, the TSA has lost $250 million in funding since 2011, while the number of passengers screened in 2015 was 708 million, an increase of 40.7 million over 2014.

The Port Authority of New York and New Jersey said Wednesday that security lines are a TSA matter, but added the agency sent a letter to the TSA pointing out the need for sufficient staffing to reduce wait times.

In the letter, the Port Authority stated that the maximum average wait time at JFK International Airport between March 15 and April 15 increased 82 percent from the same period in 2015. Maximum wait times at JFK were about 55 minutes — with similar situations at LaGuardia and Newark.

The reason for the long waits at airports, according to CNN, is threefold: more travelers, budget cuts that have stripped the TSA of thousands of screeners, and passengers loading up their carry-ons to avoid airlines' fees for checked baggage.

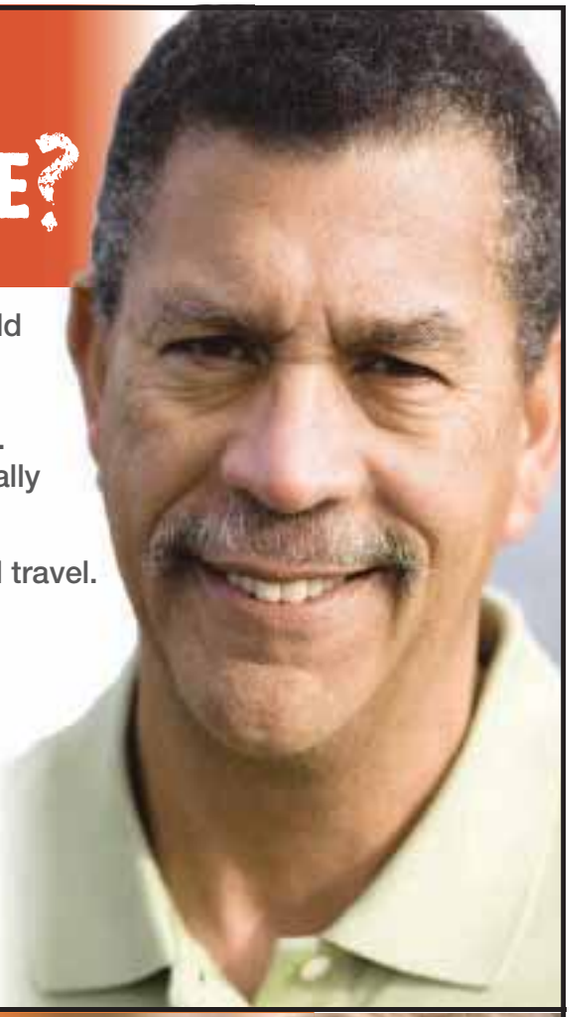
The TSA has 42,525 frontline staffers this year — a 10 percent decrease since 2013, CNN reported. The agency is expected to try to have 768 new security officers by mid-June and current officers are being offered overtime.

"TSA's primary focus is the current threat environment, as the American transportation system remains a high value target for terrorists," the TSA said in a statement. "Our strong economy means air carriers are enjoying record travel volume, which is resulting in heavier-than-normal volumes of travelers at our nation's airports — some with double-digit increases over last summer."

To help ease the chaos at airports, the TSA recommends that passengers arrive early to the airports; prepare bags for security; be ready when entering a checkpoint line; and reach out to the agency if there are any questions.

ANGY ALTAMIRANO, SAM NEWHOUSE, SPENCER BUELL

DO YOU OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW HAVE MILD ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE?



PRA Health Sciences in Marlton is now seeking individuals with mild Alzheimer's disease for a research study. To qualify for this study, individuals should be male or female between ages 55 and 85. Other than mild Alzheimer's, they should be in general good health. Females should be postmenopausal for at least one year or surgically sterile.

Those who qualify for this study may be compensated for time and travel.

To learn more call PRA Health Sciences today at 844-PRA-PINK or visit Volunteers.prahs.com.

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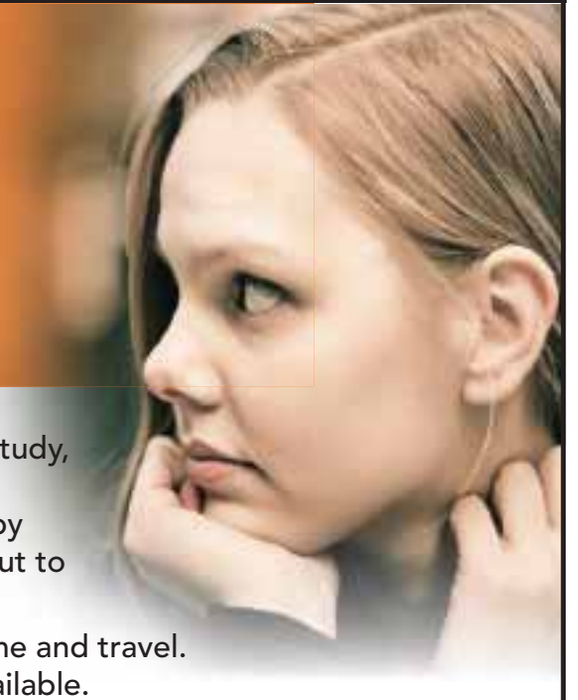
DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE WHO HAS BEEN DIAGNOSED WITH SCHIZOPHRENIA?



If so, this person could qualify for a clinical research study being conducted by PRA Health Sciences in Marlton. To qualify for this study, this male or female should be between ages 18 and 60. He or she should also have had at least three months of antipsychotic therapy within the past five years. Females should not be pregnant or about to become pregnant.

Those who qualify for this study may be compensated for their time and travel. This study requires an inpatient hospital stay. Transportation is available.

To learn more, call PRA Health Sciences at 844-PRA-PINK (844-772-7465) or visit Volunteers.prahs.com

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Clockwise from above left: Liberty guard Sugar Rodgers smiles with Roxy, a 2-year-old female Chihuahua and dachshund mix; Liberty mascot Maddie with Lizzy, Tiny and Freedom; Liberty forward and Olympian Tina Charles hugs Carmela, a 10-year-old female dachshund; Liberty guard Lindsey Harding poses with Lizzy, a 3-year-old miniature poodle mix with three legs, and Pringles, a male 4-year-old lovable shih tzu mix. Brittany Boyd, guard for the Liberty, with 8-year-old-female Jack Russell terrier mix Freedom. **DAVE SAFFRAN/MSG PHOTOS**

New York Liberty players show their love for shelter canines seeking homes

WNBA team poses for calendar being given to first 5,000 fans at Saturday's game at the Garden to promote pet adoption.

ANGY ALTAMIRANO
@MetroNewYork
letters@metro.us

With tens of thousands of animals looking for a loving home in New York City, one local sports team has come to the rescue — while also celebrating its own beloved pooch.

The WNBA's New York Liberty basketball team recently held a photo shoot with a group of rescue dogs from the nonprofit Best Friends Animal Society, which works with local groups to save animals in shelters across the city and tristate area.

According to a recent report, the three full-service animal shelters run by Animal Care Centers of New York City care for as many as 35,000 animals. The city announced last month it would provide funding to open shelters in Queens and the Bronx to provide help to more animals.

The photos of the basketball players and dogs will be part of a promotional calendar giveaway at Saturday's game between the Liberty and Los Angeles Sparks at Madison Square Garden. The first 5,000 fans will receive a calendar.

Players pictured in the calendar include forward Adut Bulgak, who posed with Coco, a 5-year-old Labrador retriever and American pit bull terrier mix; and guard Brittany Boyd, who posed with an 8-year-old Jack Russell terrier mix named Freedom.

The calendar also features guard Tina Charles, who is heading to the Olympics this summer, and Carmela, a 10-year-old dachshund. Other players in the calendar are Carolyn Swords, Kiah Stokes, Lindsey Harding, Shavonte Zellous, Shoni Schimmel, Sugar Rodgers and Tanisha Wright

The team's mascot, Maddie, an energetic pooch named after the team's home arena, also cuddled with some of the rescue dogs for the calendar.

Since creating the calendar, almost all of the dogs, except Coco, have been adopted. The Best Friends Animal Society will be at the Garden on Saturday with a few dogs to interact with fans and share information about adoption.

May 21 is also Maddie's birthday. There will be a celebration with a cake for the mascot during halftime and activities for kids.

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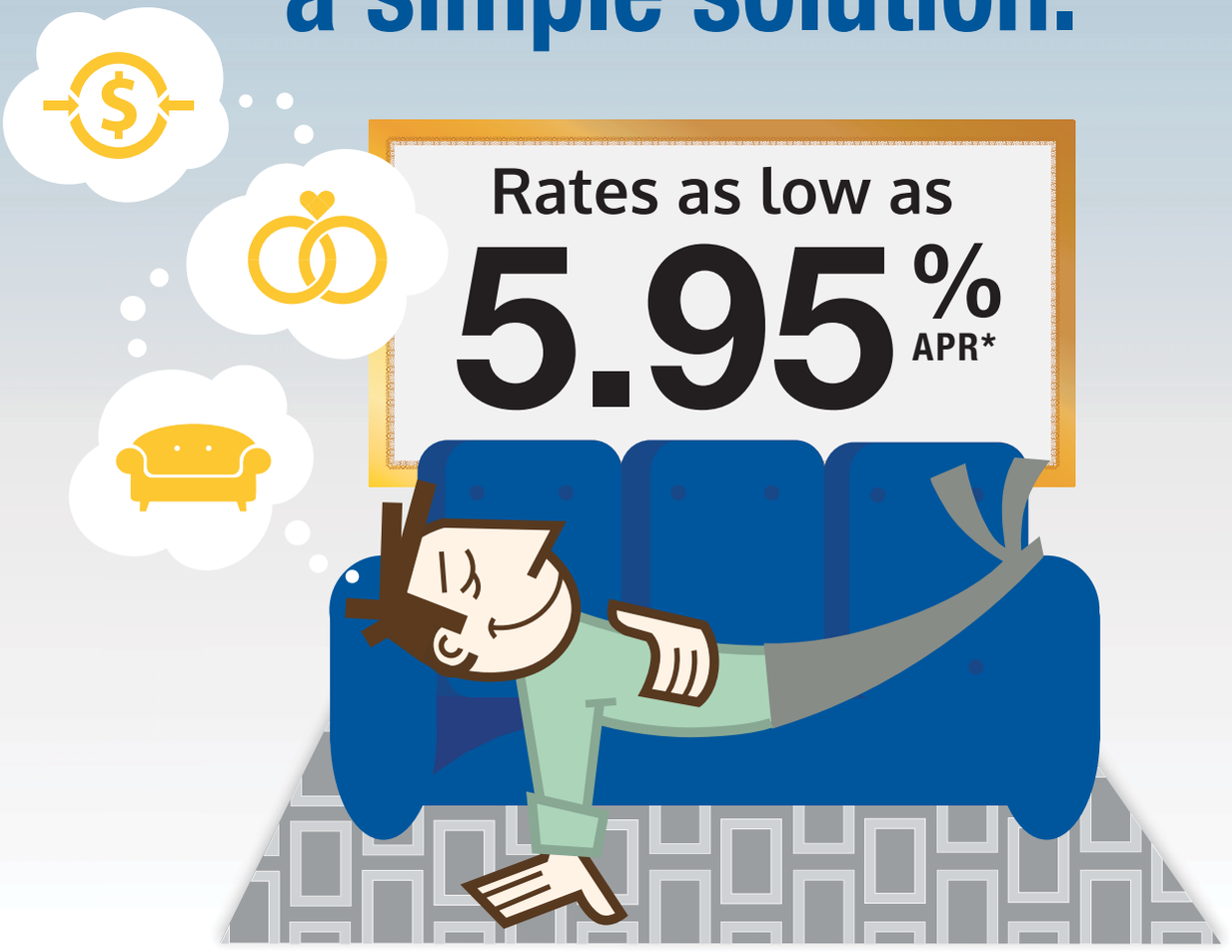

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Police fatally shoot man wielding knife in theater district

Police hold sheets to block the view where a man was shot by police after pulling a knife Wednesday. GETTY IMAGES

Shooting followed dispute over beer, struggle with cop.

A knife-wielding man who fought with police was fatally shot at the height of the morning rush hour on Wednesday on a street in New York's bustling Broadway theater district, police said.

The shooting outside of the Food Emporium at West 49th Street and Eighth Avenue, near theaters featuring the hit shows "Wicked" and "The Book of Mormon," occurred at 8:20 a.m., James O'Neill, chief of department for the New York City Police, said at a news conference.

He said the incident started when a 46-year-old man who had been trying to purchase beer became aggressive and belligerent with a cashier. The man left the grocery store and encountered a uniformed police officer and, during a struggle, both fell to the ground, O'Neill said.

As the man got back on his feet, he wielded an 8-inch knife, approaching the officer and two other officers coming to his assistance, O'Neill said.

When he refused orders to drop the knife, two officers fired nine shots, killing the man, O'Neill said. The dead man's name was not immediately released.

A 46-year-old female bystander's wrist was grazed by a bullet in the incident and one officer suffered injuries, police said. REUTERS

Officials: Spilled fuel caused East Harlem fire

Investigators said fuel spilled on a hot generator during a refueling caused the fire that snarled train service on the Metro-North tracks in East Harlem Tuesday night.

The fire caused some structural damage to a single steel beam and some nearby girders, prompting two tracks of the four on the viaduct to be closed and speed restrictions placed on the remaining tracks as repairs continue, officials said.

Crews rush to stop the fire. TWITTER

A temporary support structure will be built surrounding the damaged beam, until a more permanent fix can be put in place. Luckily, the flames did not cause any damage to the tracks, signals or third rail power systems.

Metro-North service is operating on a Saturday schedule until further notice. Customers traveling into the city could transfer to the subway in the Bronx as a commute alternative.

"We are confident there will be normal service by first thing Friday morning," MTA CEO Tom Prendergast told ABC 7. "We are working very hard to improve on that time." CHRIS CAESAR

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Inside Look: Six New York City penthouses under $10 million

There are a few hundred homes in the sky for less than eight figures.

CRISTABELLE TUMOLA
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Living in New York City at times can feel like being in the center of the world, but when it comes to local real estate, it's often about living at the top.

Penthouse ownership has always been a sign of making it in this competitive city. But owning a penthouse doesn't mean paying eight figures — even in today's sky-high market.

A simple definition of penthouse is "a structure or dwelling on the roof or top floor of a building." For renters or buyers, however, that often means luxury and space – and in New York that still isn't cheap.

Data compiled by StreetEasy show that in New York City there are 312 penthouses for sale under $10 million. The majority — 232 — are in Manhattan, followed by Brooklyn with 57, Queens with 19, Bronx with four and Staten Island with zero.

Manhattan also had the highest median asking price for those listings, but it was still at the low end — $3,822,500. The rest of the boroughs were all below the city average of $2,995,00. Brooklyn had an average sales price of $1,868,900 and Queens was $1,450,000. In the Bronx, penthouses averaged $762,500.

Even if you can't afford a penthouse — no matter the price range — here are some under $10 million from across the city to dream about while you reach for those lofty goals.

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Upper East Side

200 East 94th St., PH South
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$7.2 million
Key features: Views of the Midtown skyline and East River, 31-foot wide great-room, wide plank oak flooring, ceiling heights up to 9 feet 6 inches, generous closet space, central heating and cooling
Building amenities: 24-hour concierge and doorman, three-lane swimming pool opening onto a half-acre private park, fitness and yoga center, kids' playroom, rooftop sun terrace with barbecue, entertainment lounge.

420 West 25th TOWN RESIDENTIAL

Chelsea

420 West 25th St., PHK
$1.5 million
1 bedroom, 1.5 bathroom
Key features: Landscaped terrace with irrigation system, outdoor gas grill, floor-to-ceiling windows, pro-grade Sirius ventilation system to the outside
Building features: Storage unit, doormen, porters, live-in super, fitness room, private cinema screening room, roof deck with grills, outdoor lounge chairs and showers.

Lower East Side

204 Forsyth St., Apt PH
2 bedrooms, 2.5 baths
$8.5 million
Key features: 13-foot ceilings, roof terrace, two additional terraces, floor-to-ceiling metal-framed Belgian windows, Calacatta Gold Marble kitchen counters, Pacific White full-height tiled marble walls and slab marble countertop in master bath
Building amenities: 24-hour doorman, fitness center featuring Peloton bicycles, private storage, limited parking available for purchase.

204 Forsyth St. **TOWN RESIDENTIAL**

340 East 23rd St. **CITY HABITAT**

Gramercy

340 East 23rd St., PH4A
$1.4 million
1 bedroom, 1 bath
Key features: Floor-to-ceiling windows, south-facing balcony overlooking downtown Manhattan, oversize noise-abating windows, multizone HVAC systems in each room
Building amenities: 24-hour doorman, 2,600-square-foot fitness center with sauna and steam room, a full-floor lounge with outdoor terrace, screening room and billiards room, landscaped roof deck with river and city views and cabanas

550 Vanderbilt Ave. **CORCORAN**

Prospect Heights

550 Vanderbilt Ave., PHW
4 bedrooms, 4.5 bathrooms
$6.9 million
Key features: Large terrace, full city view, full park view, central air, dining room, gas fireplace, hardwood floors, marble bath, walk-in closets, washer/dryer
Building amenities: Fitness center with yoga studio, shared living room with catering kitchen, library, landscaped roof deck with gas grill, outdoor kitchen, communal garden

60 Crescent St. **DOUGLAS ELLIMAN**

Long Island City

Factory House, 42-60 Crescent St., PH10D; 3 bedroom, 2 bathrooms; $3.5 million
Key features: Two large private outdoor terraces, brick interior walls, rustic wood floors, pre-war-inspired double-hung windows, Midtown views, open kitchens, in-unit washer and dryer
Building features: Attended lobby, on-site parking garage and bicycle storage, fitness center, children's playroom, landscaped terrace, residents' library lounge

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NJ man allowed to keep Trump flags at his home

He had been issued a citation and fine — and risked jail time — for flying flags over his home.

A New Jersey supporter of Republican White House hopeful Donald Trump can keep displaying Trump flags above his home, his attorney said on Wednesday, noting a judge dismissed a complaint that resulted in a municipal citation and fine for his client.

Joseph Hornick had faced a $2,000 fine and up to 90 days in jail for flying two blue flags emblazoned with the billionaire candidate's name over his home in West Long Branch, New Jersey, about 50 miles south of New York City, after police cited him for a code violation in March.

On Wednesday, prosecutor Gerald Massell asked Municipal Court Judge Louis Garippo Jr. to dismiss the complaint on the basis that the flags are not political signs, and the judge agreed, according to Hornick's lawyer, Eric Sherman.

The town ordinance prohibits the display of political signs more than 30 days ahead of New Jersey's primary on June 7.

Sherman, who had argued that the ordinance violated his client's constitutional right to free speech, said the town's city council recently agreed not to enforce the ordinance on the recommendation of the town's attorney.

"The borough will go about the business of coming up with a different ordinance that does not offend the First Amendment."

Sherman

"There will be no more enforcement of this ordinance and the borough will go about the business of coming up with a different ordinance that does not offend the First Amendment," Sherman said in an interview.

For weeks, the former firefighter had displayed the flags that featured Trump's "Make America Great Again!" campaign slogan on a pole outside his two-story house at a busy intersection near Monmouth University in a show of his support for Trump.

Another resident of the coastal town complained to police, and Hornick was issued a summons on March 25. A court date was scheduled, but a defiant Hornick refused to remove the flags.

Hornick received support from the American Civil Liberties Union of New Jersey.

"I'm very pleased, and the flags were going to stay up no matter what," Hornick said Wednesday after the hearing.

On Thursday, Trump, who is likely to face Democratic front-runner Hillary Clinton in the Nov. 8 election, is scheduled to appear with New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie at a fundraiser in Lawrenceville, New Jersey.

In 2006, Trump faced his own flag controversy when his sprawling Mar-a-Lago property in Palm Beach, Florida, was cited for flying an oversized American flag 20 feet higher than a town ordinance allowed. Ultimately, Trump agreed to relocate and lower the flag in a compromise. REUTERS

Trump flags GETTY IMAGES

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RACE FOR THE WHITE HOUSE

Democratic presidential candidates Sen. Bernie Sanders and Hillary Clinton. GETTY IMAGES

Clinton, Sanders hit final stretch of White House nominating contest

After splitting wins in contests Tuesday, Democrats Hillary Clinton and Bernie Sanders head into the final stretch of a longer-than-expected and sometimes acrimonious battle to represent their party in November's White House election.

Clinton narrowly edged out Sanders in Kentucky, a state where she had not been expected to win. Sanders won Oregon, a state that played to his strengths.

The protracted fight for the Democratic nomination has boiled over into strife in recent days, prompting party leaders to weigh in and urge unity.

The next contests will be held June 7, including in the delegate-heavy states of California and New Jersey, with the final contest in Washington, D.C., on June 14.

While Clinton is expected to win the party nomination, Tuesday's divided outcome means she is still more than 100 delegates short of sealing the deal and so cannot turn her attention fully to the general election and taking on presumptive Republican nominee Donald Trump.

In Kentucky, the two candidates will likely split the 55 delegates up for grabs. In Oregon, Sanders will take only a handful more of the 61 delegates that were awarded.

Trump, who locked up his party's nomination after the rest of his rivals dropped out in early May, has begun to organize his campaign for the Nov. 8 election. On Tuesday, he signed a joint fundraising agreement with the Republican National Committee. The agreement allows him to raise $449,400 from a single donor by splitting the funds between his campaign, the RNC and state Republican parties.

Trump, a billionaire real estate developer, had so far insisted on mostly self-funding his campaign, and the shift to a more traditional fundraising approach could anger some of his supporters.

In an interview on Fox News on Tuesday night, Trump said he had some regrets about his actions during the Republican primary process, in which he beat 16 rivals, showering insults on most of them along the way.

"I could have used different language in a couple of instances, but overall I'm happy with the outcome," Trump said.

Nevada still rankles

On the Democratic side, both candidates' camps kept up a dispute Tuesday after violent outbursts by Sanders supporters ended the Nevada Democratic convention over the weekend.

Sanders supporters were angered when Nevada state party officials chose to end their convention and block efforts to award the senator from Vermont more delegates than he initially won in the February caucus. Clinton won the caucus.

One Sanders supporter threw a chair. Others daubed chalk graffiti on a party building. Some circulated a picture of the state party chairwoman, Roberta Lange, online with her cellphone number and encouraged others to complain.

Lange said she and her family had received death threats, including a voicemail message saying "people like you should be hung in a public execution."

On Wednesday, Democratic National Committee Debbie Wasserman Schultz slammed such actions and called for civility. "We have a process set up that is eminently fair," she told CNN. "No one should be subjected to death threats."

Senate Democratic Leader Harry Reid also said he has spoken to Sanders directly. REUTERS

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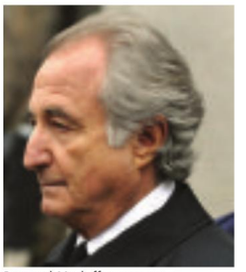
More than 25,000 Madoff victims now eligible for $4 billion fund

The overseer of a $4 billion U.S. Department of Justice fund for victims of Bernard Madoff's Ponzi scheme said he expected to recommend payouts for at least 25,280 claimants with nearly $4 billion in fraud losses.

Richard Breeden, special master of the Madoff Victim Fund, said in an update on his website this week that his office was "substantially" finished with the initial claims review process, having analyzed 63,580 claims covering $67.8 billion of alleged losses.

While there is no timetable for payouts, the announcement suggests that many Madoff victims may soon see the end of their 7½-year wait to recoup at least some losses.

Madoff's fraud was uncovered in December 2008. The swindler, now 78, pleaded guilty three months later, and is serving a 150-year prison term for running what federal prosecutors called a $64.8 billion Ponzi scheme.


Bernard Madoff GETTY IMAGES

"It sounds like it is good news for claimants," said Daniel Krasner, a partner at Wolf Haldenstein Adler Freeman & Herz in New York, whose clients have submitted dozens of claims to Breeden. "They could end up with a significant portion of their claims."

Payouts would be separate from those being made by Irving Picard, a court-appointed trustee liquidating Bernard L. Madoff Investment Securities LLC, to the swindler's former customers.

Breeden's fund also differs because he is allowing claims by "indirect" investors who had accounts at "feeder funds," hedge funds, banks and other entities that sent their money to Madoff.

In his update, Breeden said he expected to reject payouts on 7,540 claims covering $25.7 billion of alleged losses.

Breeden has also told holders of 30,760 "incomplete" claims covering $27 billion of alleged losses that they have until early July to fix deficiencies. Another 1,000 claims, some of which involve swaps and derivatives, have yet to be reviewed.

"Completing the initial review of claims is a major milestone in the case, and it brings us a big step closer to the cash distributions we all want to see," said Breeden, a former chairman of the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission. REUTERS

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Facebook comes under scrutiny for political bias

But federal oversight is unlikely.

Facebook's logo. GETTY IMAGES

As Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg prepared to meet conservative leaders Wednesday to discuss allegations about political bias on the social-media website, one thing he likely won't have to worry about is federal regulation.

Although the Senate committee is investigating whether there is liberal bias in how Facebook employees select news stories for its "trending topics," there is little chance the government will try to regulate their practices, said Republican Sen. John Thune, chairman of the Senate Commerce Committee.

"I don't have any reason to believe that would be necessary," Thune told reporters Tuesday.

The editorial practices at the world's largest social network came under scrutiny after a former Facebook contractor accused editors there of deliberately suppressing conservative news. The allegations were reported by technology news website Gizmodo, which did not identify the ex-contractor.

Facebook denied the allegations of bias and said it would conduct a full investigation into the matter. Zuckerberg also agreed to meet with conservative leaders to "share their points of view," according to a post on his Facebook page.

Attendees at the Wednesday afternoon meeting at Facebook's Silicon Valley headquarters were expected to include conservative talk show host Glenn Beck, former White House press secretary Dana Perino and former Republican Sen. Jim DeMint.

Thune sent a letter to Facebook last week to demand that it explain its editorial decision-making and how stories are chosen for the "trending topics" feature. He said his primary concern was that Facebook was potentially being deceptive about how the news curation algorithms work.

Facebook was criticized in 2014 for secretly manipulating what content appeared for a sample of users to research the psychological effects of social media.

Facebook last week released its guidelines for choosing trending topics, but the operations of the news feed algorithm remain closely guarded.

REUTERS

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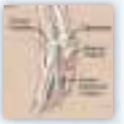

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Google unveils Home, device to compete with Amazon's Echo

Google Home's competition, the Amazon Echo, is being shown by Amazon Echo Vice President Mike George. GETTY IMAGES

Google unveiled its answer to Amazon's Alexa virtual assistant along with new messaging and virtual reality products at its annual I/O developer conference Wednesday, doubling down on artificial intelligence and machine learning as the keys to its future.

Google CEO Sundar Pichai introduced Google Assistant, a virtual personal assistant designed to perform voice-controlled tasks, along with the tabletop speaker appliance Google Home.

Amazon's Echo, a surprise hit that has other tech giants racing to match it, uses a virtual assistant called Alexa, a cloud-based system that controls the Echo speaker and responds to voice-controlled commands by users.

Like Alexa, Google Assistant can search the internet and adjust your schedule. However, Pichai said Google Assistant can use images and other information to provide more-intuitive results.

"You can be in front of this structure in Chicago and ask Google who designed this and it will understand in this context that the name of that designer is Anish Kapoor," said Pichai, pointing toward a photo of Chicago's Cloud Gate sculpture.

For Google Home, the Google Assistant merges with Chromecast and smart home devices to control televisions, thermostats and other products. It will also connect to Google's new Allo messaging App, which is scheduled for release this summer.

Allo, a rival to Facebook's WhatsApp and other messaging services, will feature end-to-end encryption.

Google did not offer a release date or pricing for Google Home, saying only that it will be available later this year.

REUTERS

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Mariah Carey shoots down wedding circus rumors

ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Mariah Carey has never done anything small. What's the opposite of outlandish? Because that's the opposite of Mariah Carey. But that doesn't mean everything you read about her upcoming wedding to billionaire James Packer is gospel. For instance, all this talk of her having basically a live circus at her big day? Hogwash! "No, that really made me mad. These people really want to tell me I want endangered animals at my wedding?" she tells Andy Cohen. "I mean, I have several dogs. I'm such an animal lover and such an advocate for animals that I'm like, really? That's what I'm going to do? Have like, endangered species? Should I make coats from them all? What else should we do?" Are you seriously asking? Because I might have some suggestions.

Eva Longoria is tying the knot this weekend

Eva Longoria and superhandsome fiance Jose Antonio "Pepe" Baston are going to have one heck of a weekend, as the couple is reportedly set to tie the knot south of the border. "Eva and Pepe are going to have a huge beach wedding in Mexico and it will be very lavish," a source tells Radar Online. "Both of their families will be there, as well as all of their close friends and loved ones. She was glowing all week. Everyone around her really likes Pepe and feels like he is the perfect fit for Eva." So I guess we're going to have to call her Eva Longoria Baston now?

Zac Efron has very high nudity standards

Hoping to catch a glimpse of Zac Efron baring all? Well, you better have a prestigious script for him, because it's going to take some potential for awards glory for him to show off Little Troy. (Yes, I'm just going to assume he named his junk after his "High School Musical" role.) "Let's just say I'm not opposed to anything," he tells Elle magazine. "But if you're going to pull your d— out, it'd better be for an Academy Award-winning movie." If only the Academy worked like that. Anyway, here's to hoping he finds what he's looking for.

Robin Wright knows how to negotiate

Clearly some of that Claire Underwood mojo is rubbing off on "House of Cards" star Robin Wright — at least when it comes to salary negotiation. "I was like, 'I want to be paid the same as Kevin,'" Wright says of recent talks she had with her Netflix bosses. "Claire Underwood's character was more popular than [Frank's] for a period of time. So I capitalized on it. I was like, 'You better pay me or I'm going to go public.' And they did." Damn straight.

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Chloe Grace Moretz chills with Zac Efron in "Neighbors 2: Sorority Uprising." CHUCK ZLOTNICK

Chloe Grace Moretz thinks feminism can be funny

The star of "Neighbors 2" wants to change minds as she makes people laugh.

NED EHRBAR
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Want to feel old? Ask Chloe Grace Moretz about things that make her feel old. The 19-year-old actress brings new energy to "Neighbors 2: Sorority Rising," which this time finds young parents Seth Rogen and Rose Byrne terrorized by a house of girls, not fratboys. Moretz plays the new clan's fearless leader: a freshman with some new ideas about a girl's right to party.

First of all, the approach to feminist issues in this is pretty impressive, especially for a raunchy comedy.
I mean, that's what was always very interesting. I think in all honesty, comedy always hits harder in society when you take on very real and modern-day issues and you disguise them under the guise of levity and comedy. They end up hitting you harder and becoming more memorable. It was a cool opportunity to try my hand at comedy and work with some of the comedic geniuses of our generation — and also be a part of a very big societal conversation going on right now and try to influence some people in the right direction.

GETTY IMAGES

Why is it so hard for some people to comprehend the idea that women can just wear whatever they want to wear?
No, totally. Growing up in this day and age, it's always been an issue thrust on women, so I think it's nice to do something as simple as that. With these parties, these girls think that they're trying to be someone that they didn't need to be. They realize that they end up being happier and more successful and they have more friends when they just be themselves and do what they want and wear what they want and just be who they are. That's something a lot of people are still afraid to do, but it's a very simple concept.

So how many obnoxious questions about the college experience — or a lack thereof — have you gotten while promoting this?
Oh, tons. Hundreds of them. "How many sorority parties have you been to? What do you know about sororities? You never went to college! How do you know anything about college?" [Laughs]

How do you humor that kind of invasive questioning?
It's just one of those things you kind of have to take in stride. Some people just don't know the life I come from or why I didn't go to college, so I just try to not be annoyed or biased or rude.

I don't think playing a freshman in college is that much of a stretch for you, really.
Right, it's not a totally foreign concept. [Laughs] It wasn't that big of a stretch. I mean, no, I didn't go to college exactly, and I never went to high school, really, or anything like that. But it's definitely not hard to imagine what it would be like if I had.

What makes her feel old

It's mildly terrifying that Zac Efron's character realizes he's "old" now in this film. Were there any discussions on set that involved the word "millennial"?
Oh, definitely. I always joke about the word "millennial" and what that entails and what that means. Honestly, I'm only 19, but when I try to talk to a 12-year-old I have no way of being able to stay in the conversation or understand what apps they're talking about or anything like that. I thought I was quick at doing social media and being on my phone, but talk to a 12-year-old for five seconds. It makes me feel old, which is weird.

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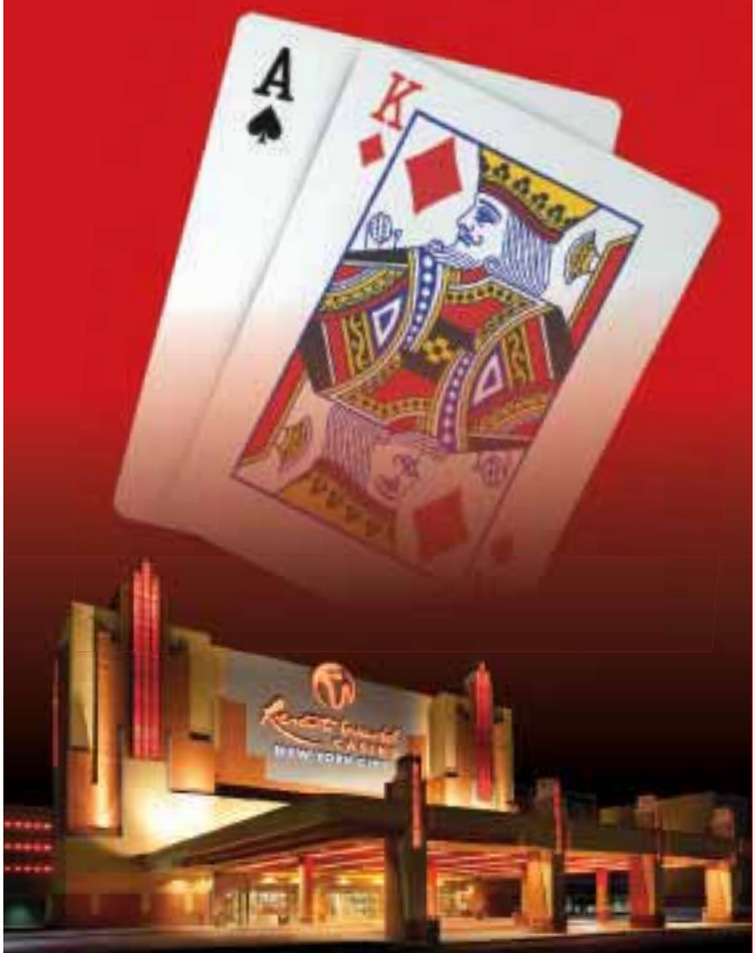

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I'd just gotten off a 13-hour flight before sitting down to write this column. I travel a lot, yet have never gotten over being in a tiny metal tube in the sky. After a while, I start to get a bit claustrophobic. I know lots of you watch new releases on the in-flight entertainment system. I have to watch old films. This time around I watched "Dirty Rotten Scoundrels," "Ferris Bueller's Day Off" and "Groundhog Day."

It got me thinking (to distract myself until the crappy food comes) about these kinds of movies. There really is something soothing about '80s/early-'90s films. You could never make them today. (Oh God, Hollywood, please don't try. Please? I'm begging you, don't remake "Ferris"!) There is an innocence about them — even ones that are about terrible human beings — that today's studio system just wouldn't allow.

Now, I'm not saying they hold up. I'm not sure a teenager would get any pleasure out of "Groundhog Day." Maybe they'd like "Ferris," but even that is a bit wide-eyed for today's youth.

Heck, even I don't think it's the best movie. If they tried to remake it (again: please, please don't), they'd try for a "dark" or "edgy" angle, or have it address social issues of some sort. Can you imagine edgy Ferris Bueller?

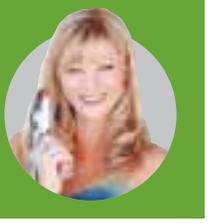
A light touch might be key. I never thought of Bill Murray in "Groundhog Day" as a person. I never thought of Andie McDowell's character as an actual human being. (She'd make me vomit if she were real. "Drink to world peace"? Seriously?) I thought of them as magical creatures of the big screen. They were cartoons. You can't do that now. Everything has to be "real." You have to relate to everyone on screen. They weren't aspirational or more charming than real life people.

I don't think getting away from that is a bad thing. We tell better stories now. I'm just saying that, after reading the news and the complaining on Twitter all day, movies like these are warm, soft blankets that got me through a very long day.

JENNA BUSCH

Geek Girl in Hollywood

Jenna Busch takes on the way pop culture snubs its female fans. for more columns, visit metro.us/jenna-busch as well as her site, legion of leia (legionofleia.com)



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More than any other neighborhood, Harlem can have a one-dimensional reputation when it comes to its culinary scene. But there's so much more than comforting soul food being made in its kitchens, and that's a big part of what the second annual Harlem EatUp! Festival showcases. (The event was founded by Red Rooster chef Marcus Samuelsson, after all.) The four days of food-focused events, both free and ticketed, begin today through May 22. We asked six participating restaurants, whose cuisines span the globe, to tell us about one dish that exemplifies their culture.

Row House

2128 Frederick Douglass Blvd., rowhouseharlem.com
The restaurant: Though fairly new, this American tapas restaurant is already a winner with groups who want a casually upscale but not stuffy meal.
The dish: A gussied-up deviled egg takes a bath in a beet brine before, swaps plain old yolk for chicken liver mousse and tops it off with pickled shallots, candied mustard seeds and cilantro
The philosophy: "We love to put unique spins on classics," says owner Cameron Fagan. "The purple really pops and the pickled shallots and candied mustard seeds give the dish a bit of crunch and depth of flavor."

Row House LIZ LIGON

Babbalucci INSTAGRAM

Babbalucci

331 Lenox Ave., babbalucci.com
The restaurant: This small, well-regarded Sicilian restaurant is run by a third-generation pizzaolio and also serves as a showcase for local artists, including one who created the restaurant's soundtrack.
The dish: Arancini ai frutti di mare mixes together some of the season's freshest seafood inside rice croquettes, with squid ink and aioli for a kick that's both visual and palate-tingling.
The philosophy: "Our arancini is a traditional Sicilian street food found at any open-air market in Sicily," says chef Andrew LoPresto, making it the perfect bite to serve during The Stroll, this weekend's walk-around tasting in Morningside Park.

Seasoned Vegan PROVIDED

Seasoned Vegan

55 St. Nicholas Ave., Seasonedvegan.com
The restaurant: Seasoned Vegan is run by a mother-son team who wanted to give comfort classics a vegan spin, both as an easy way to introduce sceptics to veganism, and a way to keep in touch with nostalgic dishes for those who have made the switch.
The dish: "Crawfish" in garlic basil sauce is actually made with burdock root, common in Japanese cooking.
The philosophy: "Our 'crawfish' pays homage to my New Orleans culinary roots," says chef Brenda Beener. "Our burdock root is bursting with flavor and is hard to tell apart from its shellfish inspiration!"

Lolo's Seafood Shack

303 W. 116th St., lolosseafoodshack.com
The restaurant: The best of New England gets stirred into the Caribbean at this breezy tropical outpost, where Johnny cakes and soft-shell crabs share a menu with bake & shark sandwiches (made with dogfish, relax) and steampots brimming with peel-and-eat shrimp.
The dish: Conch ceviche with Indo ghost pepper, plantain chips and pineapple salsa
The philosophy: "Conch ceviche celebrates the myriad cultural influences and authentic flavors of the Caribbean islands," says chef Raymond Mohan. The ghost peppers' heat plays off the natural sugars of the salsa, while the crunch of the plantains pairs with the chew of the conch.

Lolo's Seafood Shack PROVIDED

Shakespeare in the nude

If you go

The Free Tempest
May 19, 5:30 p.m.
May 20, 2 p.m.
Summit Rock, Central Park
Free, thefreetempest.com

Marisa Roper as Miranda in "The Free Tempest" OCTPFAS

The Outdoor Co-Ed Topless Pulp Fiction Appreciation Society like to do the same things everyone else does in Central Park, just in less clothing.

They read books, have picnics, get some vitamin D. This week, they're performing Shakespeare's "The Tempest" — with even more nudity.

For six years, the group has been advocating for the equal treatment of men and women through the issue of body freedom. "Let's see if we can get this conversation started or take it to the next level by putting on a play" is how producer Charles Ardai describes the impulse behind the all-female "The Free Tempest," taking place tonight and Friday on Central Park's Summit Rock stage.

"It fit really well [with the group's mission] because the more we read the play, the more we found references to clothing and nakedness, metaphorical as well as literal," says Ardai.

"We also liked the idea of reversing the way things were done back in Shakespeare's day, when all parts (even women's) were played by men," adds OCTPFAS co-founder Alethea Andrews.

"The Free Tempest" is the culmination of six months' work by a cast and creative staff who are all veterans of theater, television and dance — though the clout of the Bard's name never hurts when you're doing an avant garde project. "Nobody who hears you're performing Shakespeare could possibly question that what you're doing is in the service of art," says Ardai.

Though the Parks & Rec Department initially balked at the idea, Ardai says after showing the law was on their side — the New York Civil Liberties Union was consulted — they became a supportive collaborator. "We said, 'Don't confuse nudity with sexuality,' this is Shakespeare, there isn't an ounce of sexuality about it. The nudity, when it comes, is actually very sweet," he says. "One of the goals is to show that women shouldn't have to make the choice between being covered and on the other hand being seen as sexual."

While the character of Miranda, who's been living on the island since age 3, will be fully nude for the entire 90-minute production (this is also legal in the city when it has artistic merit), the shipwrecked aristocrats will slowly shed their 16th-century clothing. "Each of them finds her way to nudity in a different way and at a different time, and it means something different to her when she does it," Andrews explains.

"By the time the end of the play comes, they are as comfortable on the island as [Prospero] and [Miranda] are," says Ardai, echoing the group's hope for women to enjoy public spaces as freely as men. "They face each other in an honest way, just as human beings." EVA KIS

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Listings

COMEDY

"Employee of the Month"

May 19, 7 p.m.
Joe's Pub, 425 Lafayette St.
$30, joespub.com
After a long day at the office, comedian Catie Lazarus knows that there's nothing you want more than to kick back and talk about work. But once you see this lineup of special guests gathering to bitch about their days, you'll understand: the amazingly random but perfect trio of Patti LuPone, Tituss Burgess and Jon Hamm.

ART

"Art School Acid Dropout"

May 20, 8 p.m.
The Creek and Cave
10-93 Jackson Ave., LIC
$5, creeklic.com
Illustrator Grant Lindahl takes sketch comedy one step further by inviting audience members to show up with sketch pads to draw during a live show. There's also beer to get the creative juices flowing. "Art School Acid Dropout" is described as "intellectual art therapy," and who can turn down $5 therapy in NYC?

FOOD

Essex Street Market Block Party

May 21, 12-5 p.m.
120 Essex St.
Free, essexstreetmarket.com
The vendors of Essex Street Market are heading outdoors for their annual cookout and neighborhood party Saturday, with AstroTurf on the sidewalk, live music and picnic tables to enjoy the weather. This year, they've also invited Lower East Side restaurants like The Fat Radish, Cafe Katja and Ice & Vice, which created a special flavor inspired by the market; most food will cost $5 or less.

MOVIES/TV

New York on Location

May 22, 11 a.m.-5 p.m.
Kaufman Astoria Studios, 36th Street between 34th & 35th avenues
Free, movingimage.us/nyonlocation

This whole city is practically a film set, but there are some specialized tricks you won't see on the streets. This Sunday, industry professionals will open their studios, stunt sets and more to give visitors a behind-the-scenes look at how film and television gets made. Go inside more than 20 working trailers and trucks and chat with industry professionals. Catering trucks will provide food and treats, and admission is also free to the Museum of the Moving Image. EVA KIS

PROVIDED

DANCE

Decade of Dance

May 21, 1 p.m.
Tompkins Square Park
Avenue A & St. Marks Place
Free, danceparade.org
Everyone loves some form of dance, which is why DanceFest, now in its 10th year, always draws big crowds for its afternoon celebrating art in the East Village. The parade kicks off at 21st St. and Broadway and makes its way down to Tompkins Square Park through a coordinated combo of steps including salsa, hula, waltz, tango and even breakdancing. All-ages dance lessons and a massive dance party follow, with live performances.

PARTY

Disney Prom

May 21, 10:30 p.m.
The Hall at MP
470 Driggs Ave., Brooklyn
$15-$30, thehallbrooklyn.com
Childhood fantasies can come true! Disney Prom will feature music from The Little Mermen, a Disney rock cover band, with costumes and singalongs highly encouraged. It's basically the coolest party you could have dreamed up in elementary school—but instead of a juice box, you'll be jamming with a specialty cocktail in hand.

DOGS

Barkfest

May 22, 2-8 p.m.
Hudson River Park
Pier 97 at W. 58th St.
$40-$130, barkshop.com
Pier 97 is going to the dogs for an afternoon of music and fun for humans and canines alike. Barkfest 2016 is hosted by Rachel Antonoff with live music from Tanlines and Great Caesar. Social media superstars Marnie, Tuna and Crusoe will make appearances with their owners. There will also be food trucks, vendors and Pup Putt Golf — and adoptable animals.

DRINKS

Speed Rack National Finals

May 22, 5-9 p.m.
Webster Hall, 125 E. 11th St.
$30, speed-rack.com
Speed is one of the most important traits in a bartender, as anyone who's ever been six-deep from the counter can attest. This Sunday, eight of the fastest female drink-slingers in the country come together for a part-show, part-competition, all to raise money for breast cancer charities.

ARTS

The Meeting: Prince

May 22, 7 p.m.
Joe's Pub, 425 Lafayette St.
$20, joespub.com
While Justin Sayre — the take-no-prisoners emcee of "The Meeting of the International Order of Sodomites"— can usually be counted on to lampoon the great ladies of the stage, from Barbara Streisand to Beyonce, he'll be switching it up for his final performance of the season with an ode to Prince. You never know who might drop by this naughty, bawdy cabaret that calls out all the shame-free peculiarities of the modern LGBT community; past guests have included artists from Lea DeLaria to Christian Campbell.
T. MICHELLE MURPHY

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Beyond the Forbidden City

There's plenty to see in the Chinese capital of Beijing.

Fodor's Travel

Given its size (more than 21 million inhabitants) and history (three millennia and counting), Beijing can seem like an overwhelming destination to visit. We've made things a little easier for you.

798 Arts District

Anyone with even a slight interest in Chinese contemporary art should get a firsthand look at the scene at the bustling 798 Art District. Old buildings were transformed into galleries, studios, art centers, restaurants and bars.

Beihai Park

Northwest of the Forbidden City, Beihai Park is home to Beijing's largest and most beautiful public lake. All you need to do to enjoy the park is stroll around or rent one of the paddle boats that fill the lake on summer weekends. If you wish to see the cultural sights, check out Yongan Temple, from which you can climb to the white stupa perched atop a small island in the lake.

Confucius Temple

Built in 1302, the Confucius Temple pays tribute to China's greatest sage and his lasting legacy. The temple complex has been combined with the adjacent Imperial Academy, once the highest educational institution in the country, where government officials were trained to master the Confucian classics.

Panjiayuan Antiques Market

Also known as the Dirt Market, Panjiayuan Antiques Market is home to surprisingly orderly open-air stalls where more than 3,000 vendors hawk Cultural Revolution memorabilia, artwork, curio cabinets, jade dragons, jewelry and more. You'll need to bargain aggressively to get a fair price.

Eastern Qing Tombs

Northeast of Beijing, in Hebei province, lie the tombs of Qing Dynasty emperors, nine of which are open to the public. Not to be missed is Yuling, the final resting place of Qianlong, the Qing's most powerful sovereign — exquisite carvings of Buddhist imagery adorn the walls and ceiling.

Great Wall of China

Given its proximity to Beijing, the Great Wall of China is an essential part of any visit to the Chinese capital. Only an hour by car from downtown Beijing, the Great Wall at Badaling is great if you're short on time and seeking out postcard-ready restored sections. Nearby, the Great Wall at Juyongguan is equally popular. Farther afield, the Great Wall at Mutianyu is significantly less crowded and the views are stunning.

Hutongs

In an earlier era, most of central Beijing was filled with hutong (alleyway) residences, but over time more and more have disappeared. If you're looking to explore on your own, the area surrounding Drum Tower is a good start; or arrange a tour with Beijing Sideways, which carts guests around the alleyways in the sidecar of a vintage motorbike.

Chinese New Year's party at Confucius Temple GETTY IMAGES

Lama Temple

Originally built as a temple for Prince Yongzheng, who went on to become the third Qing Dynasty emperor, Lama Temple is one of the most important functioning Buddhist temples in Beijing, with five splendid main halls and multiple galleries hung with scroll paintings.

Nan Luogu Xiang

A narrow alley that dates back some 700 years, Nan Luogu Xiang (South Gong and Bell Alley) has become a hot destination for drinks, shopping and snacks over the past decade. Be sure to spend some time wandering through the eight historic hutongs that flank Nan Luogu Xiang to the east and west.

Olympic Park

In the years surrounding the 2008 Summer Olympics, Beijing changed rapidly as entire city blocks were cleared to make way for new hotels, modern buildings and sports centers. Two architectural icons from the games that are still standing: Head to Beijing Olympic Park, where you can go inside the Herzog & de Meuron-designed Bird's Nest and the Water Cube, which is now a water park.

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The Blue Jays-Rangers brawl last weekend was a breath of fresh air. GETTY IMAGES

TIME TO MAKE BASEBALL FUN AGAIN, ONE BRAWL AT A TIME

SID ROSENBERG

OPINION

Sid Rosenberg co-hosts 'The Bernie and Sid Show' on WABC in New York. You can reach him on Twitter @SidRosenberg

Change is inevitable with everything on this planet, which makes it no surprise that the climate of Major League Baseball has changed a lot over the years — both on and off the field. What's noteworthy about the change in professional baseball in America is that it has been very similar to the way that America has changed as a country.

Like the United States of America, Major League Baseball has become a melting pot of players hailing from all corners of the globe who flock to the states not only for baseball contracts but for better lives for themselves and their families. This is nothing new, but recently it seems that more and more players from outside the United States are showing up on MLB rosters than in decades past. This influx of non-American-born players has undoubtably changed the culture of the game of baseball.

With this pollination of eccentric players in Major League Baseball comes the baseball culture that they know from their home countries. Foreign players more often than not have played in ballparks that Americans would liken to their local Little League fields fitted with little security and filled with rabid fans, which makes for a hostile environment both on and off the field. This brings me to my point.

This past Sunday, Texas Rangers second baseman Rougned Odor clocked Toronto Blue Jays' outfielder Jose Bautista with a mean right hook after Bautista took out Odor with a late slide at second base. Players from both dugouts and bullpens flooded the field to join in the melee that ensued. It was a good ol' bench clearing brawl, something that baseball has been missing. Major League Baseball has followed in the footsteps of American politics in that it has become too politically correct.

In the past five seasons, Major League Baseball has made substantial changes to try and control the game. Chewing tobacco, whether it is harmful to their health or not, has been a part of baseball since its creation and a handful teams have banned players from using tobacco products within their confines. Umpires are far too quick to issue warnings to teams when pitchers hit or brush back a batter when trying to send a message or stick up for a teammate. And don't even get me started on the MLB replay center. To sum it up, Major League Baseball has caved and has taken actions to cater to the traditional American baseball fan.

With this attempt to be politically correct, MLB management has taken away a lot of the passion and energy that the game used to have. I was excited to see the brawl in Texas on Sunday because it brought energy and emotion to a game that is at times tiring to watch. I am not suggesting that players go out every game with the intention of starting a brawl, but they should be given a longer leash by the umpires when it comes to camaraderie with their opponents.

As the great "Iron" Mike Tyson once said, "Everyone has a plan until they get punched in the mouth."

I think it's time for Major League Baseball to stop trying to control the cultural influence brought in from foreign players and in return bring some excitement back to America's pastime.

Big ol' lawsuit

A 38-year-old woman alleges that Mets pitcher Bartolo Colon fathered two children with her and she is now demanding child support payments, according to the New York Post. Colon has not acknowledged having a 7-year-old daughter and 8-year-old son with the woman, Alexandra Santos. Colon is married to Rosanna Colon. GETTY IMAGES

FANTASY BASEBALL: WHO'S HOT, WHO'S NOT?

KYLE BISHOP

OPINION

Kyle Bishop is a lead MLB columnist at RotoBaller.com. His articles and Fantasy Baseball Rankings are your secret weapon for winning fantasy leagues.

Hard as it may be to believe, we're roughly one-quarter of the way through the season. All of the major fantasy platforms have tools which allow you to see how players have performed more recently. While you should be cautious about using arbitrary end points and cutting already-small samples even smaller, these splits can be useful in helping to identify players whose hot or cold starts are propping up or suppressing their season stats. Here are a few examples.

Trending up

Lucas Duda

Through the season's first two weeks, Duda hit .200/.243/.229 with no home runs and only three RBIs. Over the past month, however, he's produced a much more palatable .250/.320/.534 line and hit seven homers. Among first basemen, only Anthony Rizzo and Chris Carter have gone deep more often in that time.

Miguel Sano

Sano had an even worse start than Duda, posting a pitiful .143/.286/.171 line through the opening two weeks of the year. He had no homers and only one extra-base hit. Since then, he's hit safely in 20 of 26 games. The light-tower power than enticed many fantasy owners to invest heavily in him also showed up, as he has six homers over the last month, including three in his last five games.

Justin Verlander

Verlander has allowed just one run and struck out 17 batters in his last 15 innings of work. A pair of disastrous outings earlier in the year has kept his ERA near 5.00. While those games obviously still count, they also represent more than half of the runs he's allowed this season. Strip them out and you're left with a 2.68 ERA, 0.94 WHIP, and better than a strikeout per inning. Those numbers are essentially what he provided at his peak.

Trending down

Tyler White

White became an early-season sensation thanks to an absurd opening week. Expected to be a placeholder in Houston for top prospect A.J. Reed, White had 10 hits in his first 15 at-bats, including three homers. He's just 15-for-92 since. Reed injured his hamstring last week, but still figures to take over as the starting first baseman eventually – particularly if White and the Astros continue to scuffle.

Dexter Fowler

Coming off the best fantasy season of his career and penciled in as leadoff man in a stacked Cubs lineup, Fowler was a savvy under the radar pick for many owners. He's been better than anyone could have imagined, producing a .992 OPS with three homers and going a perfect 6-for-6 on stolen base attempts. Over the last two weeks, though, he's been less impressive: No homers, just one steal, and an OPS virtually identical to his career .789 mark.

Vince Velasquez

The Phillies' rookie started his season with 15 scoreless innings, including a 16-strikeout, three-hit complete game gem against the Padres. He's been much less impressive in his last five turns, averaging less than six innings per outing and posting a mediocre 4.13 ERA in the process.

The Mets' Lucas Duda is worth a look in your fantasy league. GETTY IMAGES

Hip Arthritis Pain? Can Newest Medical Treatments Help Avoid Surgery?

If you suffer with painful hip arthritis and want medical options to surgery – science may have finally found the possible solution you've been looking for.

Here is why: Arthritis develops from failure of internal cells of the joint to produce Synovial Fluid which cushions the joint. Then, wear-and-tear over time can cause the joint to "dry out" and grind down the protective cartilage leading to pain, inflammation and immobility. Let it go too long and your only option may be complete surgical replacement of the hip.

But...researchers and doctors have discovered all-natural gel like medicines that are like "joint oil" and can be used to supplement the joint which is drying out... much like adding oil to an automobile. This all-natural gel is quite similar to the naturally occurring lubricating substances in the hip joint. When doctors precisely place this lubricating gel into your hip joint – always with the use of a advanced medical imaging - it is like putting oil on a rusty door hinge. It cushions the joint and can decrease pain and promote healing. This is not cortisone and has no side effects. For some, results can be dramatic and last for months - if not longer. *The earlier you treat the hip, the better chance it can help you.*

Know this: This is NOT a supplement you can buy over the counter or on the internet. This is a REAL medical treatment that must be given by a health care professional with advanced medical technology only.

And the great news is: You can find out if you are a candidate for this advanced medical procedure with our No-Obligation Risk-Free Hip Pain Screening at Downtown NYC Medical. To find out more and schedule your free screening appointment, simply call 800-879-7343

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In this research study, brain imaging, clinical tests and questionnaires will be used to examine the effects of NAC. The results might help explain the underlying mechanism of Parkinson's disease and we would learn more about whether NAC is beneficial in Parkinson's disease.

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LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE OF FORMATION of HSVR BUILDING LLC Articles of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 02/03/2016. Office location: New York County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: C/O The LLC, 214 W 39th St., Suite 501A, New York NY 10018 which is also the principal business location. Purpose: any lawful activity

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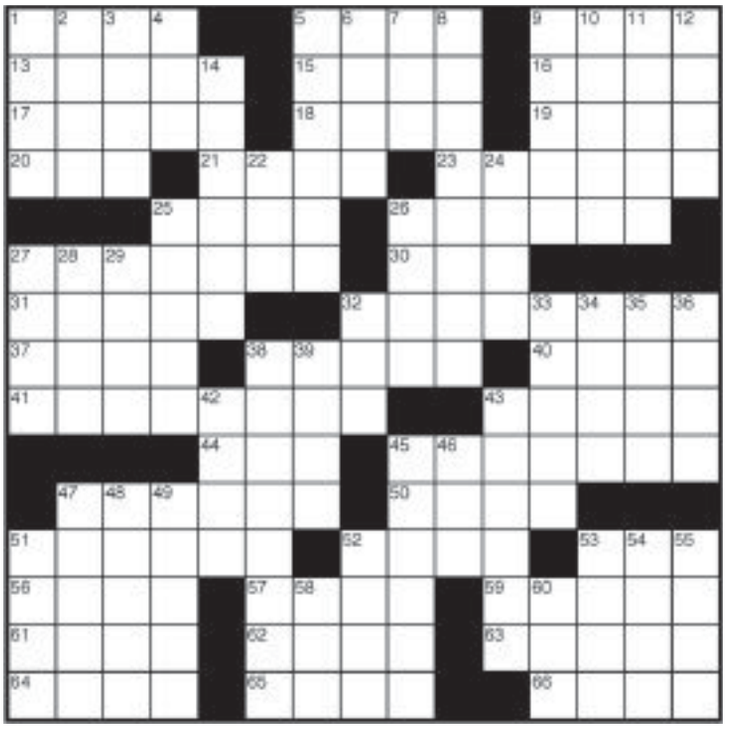

Across

1 Copacetic
5 Twinge
9 Hoarfrost
13 Bedroom community
15 Indiana neighbor
16 PC system
17 More tender
18 End of the earth
19 Jostle
20 Blast maker
21 Slick
23 Boom box sound
25 "Lonely Boy" composer
26 Disparaged
27 Treadmill user
30 Liquid meas.
31 Avoid a big wedding
32 Wrapped up
37 Loughlin or Petty
38 Lewis' exploring partner
40 Cougar's pad
41 Leave work (2 wds.)
43 Oft-quoted catcher
44 Formic acid producer
45 Frozen dessert
47 Busy
50 Put out heat
51 Sniff the air?
52 Familiar auth.
53 Wash against, as waves
56 Slap on hastily
57 Ties up the phone
59 Soul food
61 Nesting place
62 Adams or Brickell
63 Weighs, as evidence
64 Glimpse
65 Oxford tutors
66 Pit

Down

1 Wisecrack
2 Nerve part
3 — Vonnegut Jr.
4 Prior to
5 Pulp tree
6 Popeye's shout
7 Nothing at all
8 Returns (2 wds.)
9 Naive rustics
10 Toughen up
11 Played charades
12 World's fair
14 Eyre's creator
22 Likable prez?
24 Bend an ear
25 Meat jelly
26 Petri-dish goop
27 SOS response
28 Baseball family name
29 Eve's opposite
32 Butter serving
33 On the qui vive
34 Duds
35 Dublin's land
36 Heck!
38 Transported
39 Minstrel's instrument
42 Gardener's dread
43 Earthlings and ETs
45 Knows intuitively
46 Insurance gp.
47 Diarist — Nin
48 Gullible person
49 Cat, informally
51 Still
52 Quite similar
53 DNA context
54 Business letter abbr.
55 Furtive whisper
58 Turmoil
60 Disposed of

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easy

5				2			1	3
2						5		
				3	9		8	
		9		6	4	8		7
8								1
3		4	9	1		6		
	4		1	5				
		1						4
6	2			4				9

hard

3		2		4				8
			9				1	
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			4	8		9		5
			2		1			
9		8		6	7			
8		4		7				9
	3				4			
6				1		2		4

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Taurus Try something new. Travel somewhere you've never been before. Break new ground and seek out people who have something to offer you

Gemini Don't let your imagination run wild. Realism will be required to avoid a loss or being taken for granted. Partnerships will need an adjustment if you want them to work.

Cancer Search for creative people who offer positivity and encouragement in order to be inspired. A few of your ideas could be turned into something spectacular.

Leo Don't let anyone ruin your day or plans. It's OK to be unusual or to do things differently. Boost your energy and show everyone exactly what you have to offer.

Virgo Your ability to see the big picture and to formulate the best way to move forward or to bring about change will give you the edge. Networking will build confidence.

Libra You'll be inspired to make personal changes. A short trip or a chance meeting that offers an unusual experience will help build enthusiasm and the courage to pursue your dreams.

Scorpio Follow your desires and don't shy away from doing things your way. An emotional encounter will lead to an interesting discussion and plans with someone special.

Sagittarius Make yourself accountable for any misunderstanding you are a part of. It's important to get your facts right before sharing information. Make personal improvements.

Capricorn Consider an addition to your home or a project that will bring in extra cash for you. Make love a priority and personal gains your goal.

Aquarius Make a point to learn something new. Diversifying your skills will help you jump into a higher earning bracket. A secret is best kept that way for now.

Pisces Don't worry about someone causing a fuss or trying to pick a fight. Concentrate on helping people who are accommodating and grateful. EUGENIA LAST

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